

REMARKS

The title, specification and abstract have been amended as required by the Examiner. The specification also has been amended to clarify that the term "SUS304" employed in the specification corresponds to the term "AISI304" as employed in the United States.

The claims have been amended to better define the claimed invention, and better distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art. More particularly, independent claims 1, 16 and 18 have been amended to clarify that the plastic working is spinning working. Additionally, independent claims 1, 16 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 3, which has been canceled.

FIG. 5 of the drawings has been amended as required by the Examiner. Corrected formal drawings will be filed upon allowance of the application.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, marked copies of the amended specification paragraph, claims and abstract accompany this amendment.

Turning to the art rejections, claims 1-6, 16, 18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or under 35 USC 103(s) as obvious over Tanno or Swain.

Neither Swain nor Tanno discloses or suggests a reduction rate as required in claims 1, 16 and 18, or the criticality of such a reduction rate in achieving a circular-shaped metal structure of sufficiently small thickness in accordance with the present invention. Swain and Tanno do not teach or suggest such a reduction rate to achieve the claimed thickness.

Swain and Tanno do not describe a process for forming an object, that is, a hollow cylindrical seamless supporting layer (Swain) and a belt (Tanno). Swain and Tanno nowhere disclose spinning working for forming a hollow cylindrical structure. Accordingly, it is considered that an hollow cylindrical seamless supporting layer (Swain) and a belt (Tanno) are

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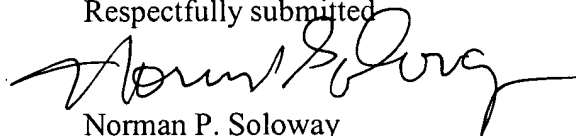
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formed by a conventional process such as compression. Hence, even if a reduction rate of a thickness were suggested in Swain and Tanno, it is a reduction rate for compression, not for spinning working as in the present claims.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the application is believed to be in order for allowance.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them to our deposit account number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on September 24, 2002 at Tucson, Arizona.

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MARKED COPY OF
SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPH

SERIAL NO. 10/074,961

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MARKED SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPH:

Paragraph beginning at page 10, line 13:

Fig. 5 is a graph showing S-N curves found when a thickness reduction rate is equal to 50% in a cylindrical film composes of SUS304. (As used herein, the term "SUS304) corresponds to "AISI304".)

MARKED COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

SERIAL NO. 10/074,961

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MARKED CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES MADE:

1. (Amended) A circular-shaped metal structure fabricated by [plastic working] spinning working and having a thickness equal to or smaller than 0.09 mm[.], wherein a reduction rate of a thickness of said circular-shaped metal structure after spinning worked to a thickness of said circular-shaped metal structure before spinning worked is equal to or greater than 40%.

16. (Amended) A photosensitive drum to be used in an electrophotographic printer, said photosensitive drum being comprised of a circular-shaped metal structure fabricated by [plastic working] spinning working and having a thickness equal to or smaller than 0.09 mm[.], wherein a reduction rate of a thickness of said circular-shaped metal structure after spinning worked to a thickness of said circular-shaped metal structure before spinning worked is equal to or greater than 40%.

18. (Amended) A fixing belt to be used in [an electrophotographic printer] a heat fixing device, said fixing belt being comprised of a circular-shaped metal structure fabricated by [plastic working] spinning working and having a thickness equal to or small than 0.09 mm[.], wherein a reduction rate of a thickness of said circular-shaped metal structure after spinning worked to a thickness of said circular-shaped metal structure before spinning worked is equal to or greater than 40%.

MARKED COPY OF ABSTRACT

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MARKED ABSTRACT:

ABSTRACT [OF THE DISCLOSURE]

[A method of fabricating] A circular-shaped metal structure[, includes the steps of (a) rotating a pipe around an axis thereof, the pipe being composed of a plastic-workable metal, and (b) applying drawing to an outer wall of the pipe with the pipe being kept rotated, to reduce a wall thickness of the pipe and lengthen a wall of the pipe. A resultant circular-shaped metal structure fabricated by the method could have] formed by spinning working has a thickness equal to or smaller than 0.09 mm. The structure may be used as a photosensitive drum or fixing belt in an electrophotographic printer.

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